(SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court in its order dated 23.12.1996 has highlighted the prevailing conditions in the prisons and has reiterated the need to take action on some of the problems relating to streamlining of theremission system and parole, to deliberate about enacting of a new Prison Act to replace the old Indian Prison Act, 1894, to examine the question of framing of a model new All India Jail Manual, to improve medical facilities and hygienic conditions, to think about introduction of liberalisation of communication facilities, to take needful steps for streamlining of jail visits and to ruminate on the question of introduction of open air prisons in the districts headquarters of the country.

(c) The responses are required to be submitted within three months of the judgement.

Criteria for appointment of J.Es. in M.C.D.

1851. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for recruitment of Jr. Engineer (Civil) in the Government Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs including the Municipal Corporation of Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that direct recruitment of JEs (Civil) is being done in the Corporation, on the basis of marks obtained in various examinations without even verifiying the marksheets and other certificates ignoring the claims of the Work-Assistants and JEs already working on ad-hoc basis; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to do justice with such Work-Assistants and ad-hoc JEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) The recruitment to the post of Junior Engineer (Civil) in municipal Corporation of Delhi and in other departments under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs in which such posts exist is made in accordance with the provisions laid down in the approved Recruitment Rules.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The certificates furnished by the selected candidates are verified before the appointment is offered to them. The Recruitment Rules for the post of Junior Engineer (Civil) provide for direct recruitment only. Work Assistant (Muster-Roll) and ad-hoc Junion Engineer (Civil) are therefore eligible to the considered for regular appointment to the grade only if they meet the requirement of age and other qualifications laid down in the relevant Recruitment Rules.

Powers given to investigative and enforcement agencies

1852. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in the Financial Express dated 24.11.1996 captioned "Government must strike a balance and not act as a Supercop";

(b) whether un-fettered powers are being given to various investigative and enforcement agencies;

(c) the steps proposed to ensure moderation and safeguard the dignity of individuals by such agencies; and

(d) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal to give unfettered powers to investigative and enforcement agencies.